



BATTLE LINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR
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NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Richard Ross Butcher---Black Canyon
City, AZ

Robert Witty Butcher----Pound Ridge, NY

Also approved as Youth Registrants:

Jacob J.A. Butcher, Richard's son

Luke D. Butcher, Robert's son

A warm welcome to our new compatriots!

IN OUR MEMORY

On March 30, 2005, our chapter lost one of its most beloved and distinguished members. Ralph Kenneth Gibbs passed away at the age of 97 in Michigan, where he had moved to be near his son Ronald.

A veteran of WWII, compatriot Gibbs was the recipient of the American Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

Ralph and his late wife Marie had been faithful attendees at chapter dinners, and both are sorely missed.

CHAPTER PRESENTS SAR ROTC AND JROTC MEDALS

President Jonathan Goebel presented the SAR ROTC medals to Army, Navy and Air Force cadets at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy; RPI and Siena College in Loudonville operate a joint ROTC program.

Dennis Marr presented the JROTC medal at Christian Brothers Academy in Albany on April 13. Dennis will also be presenting the JROTC medal at his *alma mater*, LaSalle Institute in Troy, in early June.

CHAPTER OFFICERS ELECTED

The chapter elected the following officers for two-year terms at its Annual Meeting and Washington's Birthday Dinner held at the Century House, Latham, NY on 19 February 2005:

President – Jonathan E. Goebel

1st VP/Treasurer – Richard H. Fullam

2nd VP – George H. Ballard

Secretary – Stephen C. Coye

Registrar – Duane P. Booth

Genealogist/Historian – Dennis F.M. Marr

Chaplain – Peter K. Goebel

Asst. Chaplain – Henry Goebel, Jr.

A hearty congratulations to our new officers, and best wishes for a successful term of office.

A TIP OF THE HAT TO DUANE BOOTH

The chapter owes a debt of gratitude to immediate past president Duane Booth. Duane did yeoman work in leading our chapter for two years, and was responsible for a number of innovative programs. Perhaps first among these was the participation of the chapter in the naturalization ceremony held at the Saratoga National Historical Park last July 4. This inspiring ceremony welcomed new American citizens from many nations. In concert with other organizations, the chapter helped make this a colorful event and one that garnered much fine publicity.

A similar program is planned for this July 4, and it looks to become an annual event. What better way to welcome new citizens to our country than to have them meet descendants of the Revolution that gave us our great nation?

ANNUAL MEETING AND
WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY DINNER

Just before the election of officers, President Booth thanked his fellow officers and all chapter members and their families for their support at our Chapter events. He gave special recognition to Program Committee Chair Stephen "Steve" C. Coye; Treasurer Richard "Rich" H. Fullam; Acting Chaplain Henry Goebel, Jr.; and Past Presidents Dennis F. M. Marr and Richard "Rick" C. Saunders, Jr. Each received a Certificate of Appreciation and a replica of a 1775 Revolutionary War American 6 lb. Field Cannon as a token of the Chapter's thanks for expending "extra effort" during the last two-year period.

The installation of officers was conducted by Past President Lewis O. Slocum. Program Chair Steve Coye introduced our guest speaker, Distinguished Professor of History, Sung Bok Kim of the State University of New York at Albany.

Before delivering his prepared text, Dr. Kim introduced two men who were visiting from South Korea, Mr. Dong Hyuk Woo a Reporter with the Korean Broadcasting Service and Kang-Uk Kim, Esq., Senior Prosecutor of Seoul District Attorney's Office. Dr. Kim pointed out that most South Koreans like Americans and they appreciate America helping them maintain their freedom. The two visitors readily agreed with Dr. Kim.

At the end of his presentation, Professor Kim noted that we all have something in common with him: that is that we all understand the importance of keeping the lessons of the Revolutionary War alive. We need to always remember our early history, and continue educate ourselves and our youth on the sacrifices that our ancestors made for us. We must keep the basis of the government that they gave us that has kept us free for so long.

Following the program by Professor Kim, President Jonathan Goebel asked Past President Booth to come forward and receive his Past President's Certificate and Pin. Past President Booth thanked President Goebel, and everyone in attendance, for their support and the ovation that they gave him.

The forty-three members and guests in attendance enjoyed a fine evening of fellowship, and continued a long chapter tradition of honoring the Father of Our Country on the occasion of his birthday.

KNIGHT ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

We are proud to announce that the chapter's essay contest entrant, Mary Konecnik, has won Third Place in the ESSSAR. Her topic was on Thomas Jefferson and entitled "One Man Can Change History."

Much effort goes into administering the Knight Essay Contest each year; special thanks are due to Duane Booth and Rick Saunders for their tireless promotion of this important SAR youth program.

In his letter to the chapter announcing the third-place entrant, ESSSAR Knight Essay Committee Chairman Frederick W. Morgan stated:

"During the five years I have been Chairman of the NYSSSAR Knight Essay Committee your chapter has participated and submitted excellent essays for state-wide competition. Your efforts in behalf of encouraging patriotic endeavors on the part of the students in your area is commendable."

As an aside, the Rhodes Memorial Fund, of which Genealogist Dennis Marr is Executive Director, is a co-sponsor of the Knight Essay Contest at the National level, and makes a substantial annual contribution towards the prize fund.

GOEBEL FAMILY WELCOMES NEW PATRIOT

Congratulations to President Jonathan E. Goebel and wife Ruth on the arrival of the newest patriot in their distinguished family. Little Anna is bringing immense joy not only to the proud parents but to also to grandparents (Assistant Chaplain) Henry Goebel and wife Alice and, uncles (Chaplain/Past President) Peter K. Goebel and Paul Goebel, and aunt Elizabeth Mosher.

THOSE ELUSIVE FEMALE ANCESTORS

At one time or another, most of us have experienced the frustration of trying to identify our female ancestors and to flesh out what we know about their lives. A terrific reference source that is chock-full of aids in this quest is *The Hidden Half of the Family: A Sourcebook for Women's Genealogy* (Christina Kassabian Schaefer, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD, 1999). This book includes a state-by-state outline of marriage/divorce records; property and inheritance law; suffrage; citizenship; censuses. Also included is a bibliography for each state for further research. Highly recommended.